State Governments on inclusion of women in the Saving-cum-Relief, scheme have been requested, since the scheme is partly funded by State Governments, A decision on the proposal will be take after ascertaining the views of State Governments.

(iv) *Import of Fish:* The fear that import of fish will destroy the fishing industry is misplaced. The *import of* fish into the country is limited. Moreover, the fish processing infrastructure in the country is utilized to the extent of 20 per cent of the installed capacity only. Import of fish as raw material by processors/exporters is generally •for re-export. This encourages employment generation, apart increasing exports.

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

467. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any decision few years back to implement Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, when such decision was taken;

(c) what are the names of the States in the country where Crop Insurance Scheme is in force; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-implementation of this scheme in the remaining States and by when, this scheme is likely to be implemented in the whole country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY. OF .AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) To enlarge the coverage in terms of farmers (both loanee and non-loanee), crops and risk under Crop Insurance, the Government have introduced a new scheme titled 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme' (NAIS)- (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna) in the country from Rabi 1999-2000. The decision to implement the new scheme (replacing the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme) was taken by the Government on 21.06.1999,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

States and UTs which are presently implementing the scheme are as under:—

1.	Assam	9.	Madhya Pradesh
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10.	Maharashtra
3.	Bihar	11.	Meghalaya
4.	Goa	12.	Orissa
5.	Gujarat	13.	Tamil Nadu
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14.	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Karnataka	15.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
8.	Kerala	16.	Pondicherry

(d) The Schemes was. circulated to all the States/UTs for implementation. It is voluntary in nature and available for all the States. The remaining States have not implemented it because of inadequate awareness in the initial stages and certain reservations expressed by some of them. However, these States may also join in due course of time.

Position of Indian Cotton in International Market

† 468. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton produced in the country is not succeeding in the competition in international market due to its low quality and higher price;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any effective step to reduce the cost of cotton production in the country and to improve its quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,